detailed deliberation with all stake holders. The recommendations of the Committee are now under consideration of the Government.

Death of coal miners

880. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 54 members lost their lives in an accident in a mine of Bharat Cooking Coal near Dhanbad;

(b) the causes of the accident;

(c) whether it is also a fact that full safety norms were not in place in the mine which had led to the accident;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether any corrective measures have been taken in the existing safety norms to avert such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Fifty workers lost their lives and four received reportable injury in the disaster at Nagda mine of Bhatdih Colliery, Western Jharia Area in Jharkhand under Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) occurred on 6-9-2006.

(b) to (d) The Mines Act, 1952 and the Rules & Regulations framed there under prescribe safe work procedures in the mines. The Mine management is required to comply with these provisions while working in the mine. Officers of Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) under Ministry of Labour and Employment carry out regular inspections of the mines. On detection of urgent and immediate danger in mines, DGMS issues improvement notice and also issues prohibitory order under the Mines Act, 1952. It is imperative on the part of mine management to rectify the violations pointed out during the inspection by DGMS officers.

However, a Court of Enquiry has been constituted by the Gvot. of India, Ministry of Labour & Employment, *vide* notification No. S.O. 1756(E) dated 12-10-06 to inquire into the causes and circumstances of the accident occurred at Bhatdih Mine of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.

(BCCL) in Jharkhand. The Court of Enquiry is to submit its report within a period of three months and the cause of the mine accident will be known after Court of Enquiry submits its report.

(e) Following remedial measures are taken by the coal companies to prevent recurrence of such accidents :

- Safety status of all Degree-III gassy mines are being re-assessed with respect to gas, stowing, method of extraction in practice and other safety aspects.
- Promoting participation of workers in safety management.
- Promoting self regulation by management.
- Tri-partite and Bi-partite review of safety status at various levels
- Observance of safety week and safety campaigns.
- Generating safety awareness and information dissemination.
- National Conference on Safety in Mines.
- Interaction at different forums with a view to promote safety, health and welfare of persons employed in mines.
- Introduction to the concept of Risk Assessment, preparation of Safety Management Plan and development of Emergency Resposne System.
- Conducting Safety Audits.
- Facilitating introduction of new technology in mining with low potential risk.
- Issue guidelines for safety operation in identified thrust areas through circulars.
- Directions have been issued to all subsidiary companies of CIL to review the status of safety of mines and rectification of any infirmity.

Export of coal

881. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of coal exported from our country to the neighbouring countries during the last four years and the revenue earned by Government;